

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 04881 192212Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1851

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4881

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, JM
SUBJECT: KINGSTON MAYOR'S "CONFIDENCE" IN JAMAICA

1. DURING A DISCUSSION ON OTHER MATTERS, AND IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, GEORGE MASON, MAYOR OF KINGSTON AND MEMBER OF THE PNP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TOLD ME THAT THE STORIES ABOUT DUMPING MANLEY ARE RUMORS CIRCULATED BY A VERY SMALL MINOCQZY IN THE PNP. HE SAID MANLEY'S BACKING WITHIN THE EEECUTIVE COUNCIL (WHICH NUMBERS ABOUT 200 PEOPLE) IS ABOUT 20 TO 1. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER SUITABLE LEADER IN SIGHT WITHIN THE PNP. HE SAID IT IS POSSIBLE THE PNP COULD LOSE THE NEXT ELECTION IN 1980, BUT IT WOULD BE A NORMAL OCCURRENCE. "THE PARTY IN POWER ALWAYS SEEMS TO GIVE THE ELECTION AWAY EVERY 10 YEARS."

2. THE OCCASION OF OUR TALK WAS A REQUEST IN CONFIDENCE FROM THE MAYOR AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP HIS "GREEN CARD" (APPROVAL TO IMMIGRATE TO THE USA) IN ORDER TO ACCEPT A CULTURAL EXCHANGE GRANT TO THE USA. WHEN HE WAS ADVISED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO TURN IT IN, HE DECIDED TO DECLINE THE EXCHANGE GRANT.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE FEELS JAMAICA WILL WEATHER ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, GIVING UP HIS "GREEN CARD" WAS A STEP HE WAS NOT YET
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PREPARED TO TAKE.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE MAYOR'S CONFIDENCE IS QUAGLNIED##.
IRVIMS

NOTE BY OC/T: ##AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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